

1870, 137) of a bird seen in Waltham, August, 1867, and a third by Mason (Auk, VI, Jan., 1889, p. 71) of an example shot in West Falmouth, Sept. 9, 1888. Two supposed "Massachusetts instances," referred to by Dr. Coues in New England Bird Life (II, 1883, 137), have been since shown by Mr. Allen (Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., No 7, 1886, 242 (foot-note), to really relate to Maine instead of Massachusetts.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

Harlan's Hawk a Race of the Red-tail, and not a Distinct Species.—An adult specimen belonging to the Iowa College Museum, Grinnell, Iowa, which Dr. Merriam has kindly submitted to me for examination, is so clearly intermediate between *B. harlani* and *B. borealis* that I have no longer any doubt that the former is simply a peculiar variation of the latter, in which the coloration of the tail is chiefly affected. In this Iowa specimen the plumage is in every respect, except the tail, that of typical *B. borealis*, while the tail has the curious mixed coloration so characteristic of the so-called *B. harlani*. The ground color of the tail is chiefly white, but this is much broken by numerous *longitudinal* mottlings and spots or other markings of dusky in longitudinal series, both webs of the feathers being thus marked. Most of the rectrices have a greater or less amount of rufous suffusion along the edge of the outer web, while the inner web of the middle feather on the right side is almost entirely rufous, though this color is broken by the usual dusky blotches; all the rectrices have a suffusion of rufous near their tips, which are narrowly white, the subterminal dusky bar of typical *B. borealis* being slightly indicated by dusky blotches and rather extensive dark brownish gray shading. In addition to the distinct dusky markings and rufous washes, many of the rectrices are washed with brownish gray on portions of their outer webs, this gray wash being also more or less mottled or blotched with darker. The specimen is probably a female, the measurements being as follows: Wing, 16.75 inches; tail, 9.35; culmen, 1.10; tarsus, 3.20 (unfeathered portion in front, to tips of feathers, 1.16); middle toe, 1.75; the outer toe about .15 longer than the inner.

The technical name of Harlan's Hawk should therefore be changed to *Buteo borealis harlani* (Aud.).—ROBERT RIDGWAY, Washington, D. C.

Capture of a Third Specimen of the Barn Owl in Massachusetts.—Through the kind offices of Mr. J. A. Farley I have just obtained a Barn Owl (*Strix pratincola*) which was taken by Mr. C. T. Wood at South Westport, Massachusetts, Dec. 30, 1888. It is a male in fine plumage and was mounted by Mr. H. P. Babcock of New Bedford. Mr. Wood writes that he shot the bird in a bushy pasture on 'Horse Neck', within a few rods of a salt creek. The specimen is, I believe, only the third that is known to have been taken in Massachusetts.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

The Great Gray Owl in Lewis County, New York. — I take pleasure in recording the capture of the Great Gray Owl (*Scotiaptex cinerea*) in this locality. It is, I believe, the first authentic instance of its capture in this County (Lewis). It was shot by a farmer in the town of Watson, Dec. 17, 1889, and is now in my collection. The farmer said that he was slaughtering swine, and the Owl flew from an adjoining piece of woods, alighting in a tree in the yard (doubtless attracted by the fresh meat). The bird, which was an adult female, was in very poor condition and the stomach was empty.—JAMES H. MILLER, *Lowville, N. Y.*

Picoides arcticus in Central New York.—The Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker is undoubtedly one of the rarest winter visitants in central New York, and its occurrence in Onondaga County in the vicinity of Syracuse has, I believe, never been made public. It is with pleasure therefore that I record two instances of its capture that have come under my notice.

On December 25, 1883, Mr. E. F. Northrup took a specimen in a swamp a few miles north of the city, but through ignorance of its value delayed skinning it until too late. I saw the bird on several occasions doing duty as copy for a water-color sketch, and tried to secure possession of it, but without success, and to my disgust it was finally thrown into an ash barrel as unfit to skin. A mention of this capture was made in Bulletin No. 1 of the Biological Laboratory of Syracuse University, published in February, 1886, by Morgan K. Barnum, entitled 'List of the birds of Onondaga County.' This Bulletin, however, was not a success, and beyond a few copies given to applicants and friends the entire issue was stored away in the College archives.

The second specimen, an immature female, was taken at Tully, New York, on February 22, 1889, by my friend Mr. J. A. Dakin who kindly consented that it should form a part of my own collection. He informs me that it was exceedingly shy and difficult of approach, and that it was only after a long pursuit and some sharp manœuvring that it was finally secured.—E. M. HASBROUCK, *Washington, D. C.*

The Red-bellied Woodpecker in Northwestern New Jersey. — I shot a female Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) at Newton, New Jersey, on the 16th of November, 1889. I have only found this species in northern New Jersey on one or two occasions, but it is of more frequent occurrence in the southern part of the State.—STEWART LEWIS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

Food of Young Hummingbirds.—July 2, 1887, Mr. E. S. Hoar of Concord, Mass, found a Ruby-throated Hummingbird's nest in his garden. It was saddled on the drooping branch of an apple tree about eight feet above the ground, and contained two eggs which were hatched July 4. On the 7th Mr. Hoar kindly allowed me to inspect the nest and its contents. The young were then nearly as large* as their mother, and were

*It is remarkable that they should have attained so large a size in so short a time. They did not, however, leave the nest until July 18.